

MAJOR GRANTS AND NEW HOMES BONUS PANEL

Thursday 27 February 2014

Present:-

Councillor Sutton (Chair)
Councillors Hannaford and Mrs Henson

Apologies:

Councillors Edwards and Fullam

Also Present:

Projects and Business Manager, Community Involvement and Inclusion Officer,
Principal Accountant (Service) (SH), Senior Valuer and City Arts and Events
Manager and Assistant Democratic Services Officer (Committees)

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MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 28 November 2013 were taken as read and signed by the Chair as correct.

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SERVICE AGREEMENTS WITH STRATEGIC ARTS ORGANISATIONS

The City Arts and Events Manager presented the report on the service profiles, targets and measures which will be the basis of the service agreements with the Exeter Northcott Theatre, Theatre Alibi, Spacex, Exeter Phoenix, Exeter BikeShed Theatre and Exeter Barnfield Theatre, and to approve annual grant funding for 2014/15 to the strategic arts organisations.

RESOLVED to recommend to Executive that:-

- (1) The levels of annual funding to the designated strategic arts organisations and methods of payment as set out in items 5.1 – 5.7 of the report be approved; and
- (2) The individual service profiles and agreements be agreed as the basis for the schedule of payments for the strategic arts organisations dependent on 6 month and 12 month monitoring reports.

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MAJOR GRANTS APPLICATIONS

29a Rent Grants

Councillor Hannaford declared an interest as the Chair of Exwick Community Association.

Members raised concerns over the increase in rent from the move of the Citizens Advice Bureau to the Civic Centre. It was considered that the grant requested may include service charges, but that the Council does not approve grants towards these costs.

Recommend to Executive that:-

- (1) The decisions, as set out below, be implemented in respect of the bodies indicated; and
- (2) The Corporate Manager Policy/Communications/Community Engagement, subject to prior consultation with the Chair of Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel, be authorised to agree a grant increase to those organisations as shown in the circulated report to match any increase in rental following forthcoming rent reviews and to reduce the rental on a pro-rata basis in respect of any organisation whose accommodation has been reduced.
- (3) Only 100% market rent will be granted for the Citizens Advice Bureau. If service charges are included in the grant requested, or the rent is significantly larger, a report would be brought back to the Panel.

* An additional grant of £7,892 has been requested to fund the additional cost of service charges that the CAB will incur by renting the Civic Centre over their service charges paid for renting Wat Tyler House.

Community/Social Need	Recommended
Citizens Advice Bureau *	£30,610
Devon Rape Crisis Service Ltd	£5,900
Exeter Age UK	£17,400
Exeter CVS	£63,425
Relate *	£11,600
Turntable	£9,000
Museums	
Topsham Museum *	£5,049
Arts	
Phoenix *	£60,180
Barnfield Theatre Ltd *	£10,876
Sport/Recreation	
Exeter BMX Club	£18,000
Exeter Cycle Speedway Club	£11,500
Exeter Water Sports Association	£7,400
Community Associations	
Alphington Play and Community Facilities Association	£6,000
Exwick Community Association	£6,500
Newtown Community Association	£2,000
Stoke Hill Community Association *	£8,300
Sylvania Play and Community Facilities Association	£1,250
Topsham Community Association *	£7,900
Wonford Community and Learning Centre	£5,000
Stoke Hill Pre-School Group	£800
Newcourt Community Association *	£6,000
Exeter Scrapstore – including Magic Carpet and Merry Go Round Toy and Leisure Library	£8,500

29b **Core Grants**

Recommended to Executive that:-

- (1) the decisions, as set out below, be implemented in respect of the bodies indicated; and
- (2) to advise applicants of core grants of the financial position for 2015/16 to bring in line with the changes to Service Agreements with Strategic Arts Organisations.

Community/Social Need	Recommended
Citizens Advice Bureau	£73,300
Exeter Age UK	£5,000
Exeter CVS	£13,900
Exeter Relate	REFUSED £2,000
Turntable	£6,250
Plymouth & Devon Council for Racial Equality	£1,500
Living Options	£5,000
Exeter Community Transport Association	£17,240
Arts	
Exeter Northcott	£66,805
Spacex	£10,797
Theatre Alibi	£16,802
Phoenix	£102,826
Barnfield	£7,837
Bike Shed	£10,793
Magic Carpet	£1,500
Sport and Leisure	
Merry Go Round Toy and Leisure Library – Scrapstore	£1,000
Grant Aiding Bodies	
Exeter Arts Council	£10,000
Exeter Council for Sport and Recreation	£5,000

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LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND APPLICATIONS

30a **Application 1 - Alphington St Michaels Church**

The Chair welcomed Juliet Meadowcroft and Alan Douglas, the representatives of Alphington St Michael and All Angels Church. They gave a presentation on the application for funds towards alterations to the church to improve facilities for the congregation and wider community.

In response to Members' questions, the representatives advised that:

- There is a demand for another pre-school and nursery, and the Church had worked together with the community centre and will not be advertising directly in competition with them.

- Although a community library would be welcomed, storage is limited with no ability to extend beyond the footprint.
- Links with Parks Watch would be welcomed with regards outside planting.
- They would welcome being put in touch with those responsible for the Exeter Community Centre Garden; the Projects and Business Manager would arrange this.

Councillors Crew and Ruffle spoke in support of the application.

Recommended to Executive that the application for £16,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:

12. The grant is conditional upon the work being carried out in accordance with planning permission reference 12/1289/03 (as amended) and all other relevant statutory consents.
13. The grant is conditional upon evidence being provided that the funding is (a) necessary and (b) sufficient (together with other funding secured) to cover the anticipated contribution costs or a discrete element of the project.

30b **Application 2 - Wear United (Countess Wear)**

The Chair welcomed Tim Davies, Vice Chairman of Wear United (Countess Wear). He gave a presentation on the application for funds to assist towards construction of a new community centre.

Members noted that Councillor Hannan had not been approached to support the application.

In response to Members' questions, Tim Davies advised that:

- The community had raised £80,000 including from surplus money over the last 5 years from events at the existing hall plus the interest that had accumulated. It was proposed to transfer the surplus again to Wear United. The Council had been required to underwrite legal costs when applying for consent from Fields in Trust; an element of last year's grant had been made available for this.
- The above figure included £5,000 raised by the community over the last year.
- Developers had not yet been identified.
- In light of the recent announcement by Devon County Council that it may gift some of its assets to communities, they had not had time to suitably digest the information. However, he felt that the existing 100 Club building was not fit for the purpose for which the new centre was intended, and the location of the building was not central enough for a community hub.
- A grant had been secured from the HCA for planning fees.

Recommended to Executive that the application for £50,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:

12. The grant is conditional upon planning permission being received for the proposal.
13. The grant is conditional upon written approval for the project being received from Sport England and Fields in Trust.

14. The grant is conditional upon evidence being provided that funding has been secured to cover the entire anticipated construction costs.
15. The grant is conditional upon evidence being produced in a form agreed by the Council as appropriate to the items concerned, that value for money is being achieved in relation to each element of the scheme.
16. The grant is conditional upon the project remaining substantially the same as that presented to the Major Grants and New Homes Bonus Panel on 13 September 2012, in terms of the location and nature of the building, although scaling down of the project to reduce costs will not in itself conflict with this condition.

30c **Application 3 - Exeter City Football in the Community Trust**

Councillor Hannaford declared an interest as a member of the Exeter City Football Club Trust.

Councillor Henson declared an interest in view of her husband's involvement in the football industry.

The Chair welcomed Julian Tagg, Jamie Vittles and Mike Phillips, the representatives of Exeter City Football in the Community Trust. They gave a presentation on the application for funds for the feasibility work for redevelopment to include educational facilities/community space to replace the Fountain Centre.

Councillor Owen spoke in support of the application.

Members considered that:

- the aims of the Trust were a key part of what the Health and Wellbeing Board were trying to achieve.
- The Civil Service Club is developing its football areas, and it may be beneficial to have some dialogue with them as to providing some extra space.

Members sought confirmation that the club would remain on its existing site. It was noted that a feasibility study had taken place and it was unanimous at that time through the Trust and supporters to remain at St James Park for community reasons.

In response to Members' questions, the representatives advised that:

- The St James Neighbourhood Plan will be a material planning consideration
- Agreements existed to fix the price payable for the St James Centre, and to ensure that any building replacing the Fountain Centre contained commensurate space for community/education uses.
- The project could be finalised within two years.

Recommended to Executive that the application for £19,800 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:

12. The grant is conditional on the Council being satisfied that the funding is being necessarily incurred for the purposes described in the application.

13. The feasibility work funded by this grant shall be conducted on the basis that any redevelopment must include space for the Trust's charitable activities, at least commensurate with the space available for those activities in the Fountain Centre.

30d **Application 4 - Newtown Community Association**

The Chair welcomed Rory McNeile, Michael Parrott, Sue Aves and Alex Chalkley, the representatives of Newtown Community Association. They gave a presentation on the application for funds for a replacement community building in Belmont Park.

Councillor Spackman spoke in support of the application.

Members questioned what parts of the project would be scaled back if the full £71,000 could not be met. The representatives advised that the project could be completed at a cost of £520,000. Some elements of the build would be scaled back, such as the type of materials used for the building and foundations. Energy efficiency elements of the build would not be reduced.

Recommended to Executive that:

- (1) the time limit for spending the previous allocation of funds be extended until the end of 2015/16 (ie the end of March 2016); and
- (2) the application for £50,000 be approved, subject to the standard conditions and the following additional conditions:
 12. Except where used for preparatory work, the Grant is conditional upon evidence being provided that funding has been secured to cover the entire anticipated construction costs.
 13. The grant is conditional upon evidence being produced, in a form agreed by the Council as appropriate to the items concerned, that value for money is being achieved in relation to each item of the Project.

31 **NEW HOMES BONUS LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE FUND - PROGRESS REPORT**

The Projects and Business Manager presented the report giving Members an overview of current and anticipated applications to the New Homes Bonus Local Infrastructure Fund, and issues arising to date.

Members noted the report and that £40,649 remained available.

They noted that Applications 2 and 4 involved a second tranche of money from the fund, and instructed the Projects and Business Manager to stress to both applicants that they now needed to concentrate their fundraising efforts elsewhere and should not expect to receive further sums from the New Homes Bonus, either for capital or revenue items.

(The meeting commenced at 4.35 pm and closed at 7.34 pm)